



July 15, 1996

Dear Workshop Participant:

Thank you for your continued interest in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED). Recent workshops have focused on the development and description of alternatives and the approach for refining the alternatives and the components of the alternatives.

CALFED is now developing a process and methods for assessing the effects of the alternatives in Phase II. Previously, we announced that a public workshop on the Programmatic environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) assessment process would be held on July 25, 1996.

The Assessment Process Workshop Scheduled for July 25, 1996 Has Been Canceled

We have decided to reschedule that workshop to allow additional time for the following to occur:

- consultation with agency and stakeholder technical experts on the assessment methods to be used in the Programmatic EIR/EIS, and
- further refinement of the components so that the assessment methods can be best suited to the refined components.

Enclosed is a paper entitled "Overview of the CALFED Assessment Process," which describes and defines the elements of the assessment process and how it will be used to compare and display the range of impacts and benefits associated with the various CALFED alternatives. The overview presents a proposed list of assessment variables; an assessment variable represents an important change to environmental conditions that can be judged to be beneficial or detrimental relative to human values and uses. For example, key assessment variables for the programmatic evaluation may be "level of chloride in Delta export water," "area of shallow tidal habitat," and "cost of municipal and industrial water supply."

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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Please use the enclosed "Worksheet on the CALFED Assessment Process" to provide us with your comments on the overview and on the proposed list of assessment variables. To focus your comments on the most important areas, a list of questions is included on the worksheet.

CALFED will be conducting a workshop on the Programmatic EIR/EIS assessment process at the beginning of Phase II (roughly September 1996). We will notify you of the workshop date and send additional information prior to the workshop. Please read the enclosed materials so that you can tell us where the proposed approach needs further refinement prior to the Phase II workshop.

Communication between the CALFED staff and agency and stakeholder experts began in June and is ongoing to determine the most effective and appropriate assessment methods to use in the Programmatic EIR/EIS. The feedback and comments that you provide will contribute to the selection of the most appropriate assessment methods for assessing the benefits and impacts of the wide range of potential CALFED actions.

Thank you for your continued interest and involvement in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester A. Snow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

Enclosures